Increase in Import Duties on Perishable Items

4445. SHRI K.M KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have increased import duties on some of the perishable items like apples, etc.;

(b) if so, the details tereof and the percentage of duties increased on each item;

(c) whether apple growers in India are likely to be benefited due to hike in import duty;

(d) if so, in what manner; and

(e) how much revenue is likely to be generated through these duties during the current finacial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) Yes, the Government have increased import duties on some perishable items like fresh grapes and apple with effect from 5.42000. The Basic Customs duty and Surcharge on fresh grapes has been raised from 27.5% to 38.5% and that on apple has been raised from 38.5% to 50%. A Special Additional Duty @ 4.% is also applicable on import of these items.

Increase in Customs duty on apple will provide higher protection to the domestic apple growers against the imports.

Since the revenue realized depends on the actual volume of imports of any particular item, the revenue impact of increase in duties cannot be anticipated.

Import of Onion

4446. SHRI K.M. KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of onion imported from the foreign countries during the current year;

(b) what are the names of the countries and the details of the expenditure incurred on import of onion, country-wise;

(c) how much qantity of onion was imported from Pakistan during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99;